

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 05566 161925 Z

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ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-12 ADP-00 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

NIC-01 SAJ-01 MBFR-03 GAC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /124 W

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R 161530 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8829

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS MOSCOW 5566

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: MBFR: SOVIET COMMENT ON VIENNA TALKS

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA GREETES "CONSTRUCTIVE" TALKS, ENVISAGES
"USEFUL" OUTCOME, AND MAKES PROPAGANDA ON INCLUSION OF
NEUTRALS. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA MAY 16 CARRIED MOST DETAILED DISCUSSION OF
VIENNA TALKS WE HAVE YET SEEN IN SOVIET PRESS. REPORT,
WHICH CARRIED VIENNA DATELINE, FOCUSED MAINLY ON QUESTION
OF PARTICIPANTS, ASSERTING THAT "FIRM AND CONSISTENT"
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 05566 161925 Z

POSITION OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ENABLED SOLUTION OF QUESTION ON BASIS OF STRICT OBSERVANCE OF " KEY" PRINCIPLE OF NO IMPAIRMENT OF SECURITY OF ANY PARTY. PRAVDA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF DETERMINING WHAT STATES WOULD " ASSUME SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REDUCING ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ON BASIS OF THIS PARTICIPATE IN DECISIONS" DURING PREPARATORY TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS. IT LISTED ELEVEN POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS IN AGREEMENTS, DIVIDED INTO STATES WITH TERRITORY AND STATES WITH TROOPS IN REDUCTION AREA. IT ALSO NOTED THAT ANOTHER STATE COULD BE INCLUDED AMONG PARTICIPANTS IN AGREEMENT IF IT AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS SO DESIRED; HUNGARY WAS NOT SINGLED OUT. STATES WITH SPECIAL STATUS WERE ALSO LISTED.

3. AS COULD BE EXPECTED, PRAVDA MADE PROPAGANDA CAPITAL OF SOVIET ADVOCACY OF INVITING NEUTRALS, ASSERTING THAT CONSIDERATION OF AND FINDING PATHS FOR SOLUTION OF REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS SHOULD NOT BE PREROGATIVE OF EXISTING ALLIANCES. IT NOTED AGREEMENT THAT QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION OF OTHER EUROPEAN STATES AS OBSERVERS MIGHT BE RAISED IN FUTURE.

4. ARTICLE NOTED THAT PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS WERE SETTLED RELATING BOTH TO VIENNA CONSULTATIONS AND TO NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES.

5. PRAVDA GREETED THE " BUSINESSLIKE ATMOSPHERE" AND " CONSTRUCTIVE CHARACTER" OF THE VIENNA CONSULTATIONS, COMMENTING THAT AGREEMENT ON PROPOSED AGENDA, DATE AND PLACE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WILL OPEN THE WAY TO NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER. WHILE THIS IS " NOT A SIMPLE PROBLEM," SOVIET UNION CONSIDERS THAT " WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE EVEN ON THIS TO FIND USEFUL, CONSTRUCTIVE SOLUTIONS."

6. IN SHORT, PRAVDA CONFIRMED THAT FORCE REDUCTIONS TALKS NOW HAVE AN ESTABLISHED PLACE IN THE SOVIET CATALOG OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN EUROPE AND CAN NOW BE ADDRESSED IN DETAIL BY SOVIET PROPAGANDISTS.
DUBS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MOSCOW05566
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730546/aaaajhar.tel
Line Count: 102
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <17-Aug-2001 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980217
Subject: MBFR: SOVIET COMMENT ON VIENNA TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, UR
To: AMMAN
BEIRUT
CAIRO
HELSINKI
JIDDA
KUWAIT
LONDON

PM

SECSTATE WASHDC

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005